

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:
a first storage device storing file management information,
a first computer connected to said first storage device,
a second computer connected to said first computer via a network, and
a second storage device [[for]] storing file data managed by said file management information, connected to said second computer.
2. (currently amended) A computer system according to claim 1, wherein
when said first computer receives a request to update file data stored in said second storage device, said first computer confirms the contents of said file management information stored in said first storage device and in accordance with said file management information, and transmits to said second computer, a request instructing updating of the file data that is the subject of said request to update file data; and
based on said instructing request, said second computer updates said file data stored in said second storage device and transmits the result to said first computer.
3. (original) A computer system according to claim 2, wherein
when said first computer receives a request to read file data stored in said second storage device, said first computer confirms the contents of said file management information stored in said first storage device and in accordance with said file management information transmits to said second computer a request instructing read of the file data that is the subject of said request to read file data,
based on said instructing request, said second computer reads said file data stored in said second storage device and transmits said file data thus read to said first computer, and
said first computer transmits said file data thus received to the originating sender of the request to read said file data.

4. (original) A computer system according to claim 3, wherein said file management information includes information on file attributes, information on the storage location of file data and information on access rights to a file.

5. (original) A computer system according to claim 4, wherein said file management information includes a table managing only files possessing certain specified file attributes.

6. (currently amended) A computer system according to claim 5, wherein as said first computer receives a request to read said file data or a request to update said file data, said first computer confirms whether or not a file specified by these requests is registered in said table and if registered, and performs processes in accordance with the file attributes of said table.

7. (original) A computer system according to claim 6, wherein a file attribute of said table is a file attribute for encryption, and as said first computer receives a request to read said file data, said first computer confirms whether or not the file specified by these requests is registered in said table for the encryption attribute, and if registered, said first computer encrypts the file data received from said second computer based on the information registered in said table for the encryption attribute and transmits said encrypted file data to the originator of said request.

8. (original) A computer system according to claim 7, wherein said file management information includes information necessary to calculate charges for a user using the computer system.

9. (currently amended) A computer system according to claim 8, wherein said necessary information includes information on the total volume of file data stored in said second storage device used by said user, and information on the total volume of data written-in to said second storage device by said user and the total volume of data read from said second storage device by said user, and

wherein [[this]] said necessary information is managed by said second computer managing said second storage device.

10. (original) A computer system according to claim 9, wherein
when said second computer receives from said first computer said request to
update file data, said second computer transmits to said first computer information on the
volume of data stored in said second storage device at the time of processing said request to
update said file data and information on the increased data volume through the data update,
and

said first computer uses said information thus received to update the contents
of said necessary information stored in said first storage device.

11. (original) A computer system according to claim 10,
further comprising a third computer and a third storage device connected to
said third computer,

wherein said third storage device holds information concerning accounting
conditions in respect of each said second computer, and

wherein said third computer reads-out said necessary information stored in
said first storage device via said first computer and calculates charges applied to said user
based on said necessary information thus read and said information concerning accounting
conditions.

12. (original) A computer system according to claim 8, further comprising
a plurality of said first computers and said first storage devices,

wherein said information on file attributes and said necessary information are
each stored in different said first storage devices and each managed by different said first
computers.

13. (original) A computer system according to claim 12, further
comprising a plurality of said second storage devices,

wherein said file data is replicated and stored respectively in of said storage
devices existing in plurality.

14. (new) A method of managing data, comprising:
storing file management information in a first storage device;
connecting a first computer to the first storage device;

connecting a second computer to the first computer via a network;
storing file data in a second storage device;
connecting the second storage device to the second computer; and
managing the file data stored in the second storage device using the file management information stored in the first storage device.

15. (new) A method according to claim 14, further comprising:
when said first computer receives a request to update file data stored in said second storage device, confirming the contents of said file management information stored in said first storage device and in accordance with said file management information, transmitting to said second computer a request instructing updating of the file data that is the subject of said request to update file data; and

based on said instructing request received by said second computer, updating said file data stored in said second storage device and transmits the result to said first computer.

16. (new) A method according to claim 15, further comprising:
when said first computer receives a request to read file data stored in said second storage device, confirming the contents of said file management information stored in said first storage device and, in accordance with said file management information transmitting to said second computer a request instructing read of the file data that is the subject of said request to read file data,

based on said instructing request received by said second computer, reading said file data stored in said second storage device and transmits said file data thus read to said first computer, and

transmitting said file data thus received to the originating sender of the request to read said file data.

17. (new) A method according to claim 16, wherein said file management information includes information on file attributes, information on the storage location of file data and information on access rights to a file.

18. (new) A method according to claim 17, wherein said file management information includes a table managing only files possessing certain specified file attributes.

19. (new) A method according to claim 18, further comprising
as said first computer receives a request to read said file data or a request to update said file data, confirming whether or not a file specified by these requests is registered in said table and if registered, and performing processes in accordance with the file attributes of said table.

20. (new) A method according to claim 19, wherein a file attribute of said table is a file attribute for encryption, and further comprising:

as said first computer receives a request to read said file data, confirming whether or not the file specified by these requests is registered in said table for the encryption attribute, and if registered, encrypting the file data received from said second computer based on the information registered in said table for the encryption attribute, and transmitting said encrypted file data to the originator of said request.